

## **Fun and Free in DC**



Student at Scott Montgomery Photo by Michael DeAngelis

## **A Parent's Guide to Maintaining Student Achievement throughout the Summer**

**[www.dcps.dc.gov](http://www.dcps.dc.gov)**

*It's summer! But "no school" doesn't mean "no learning." As you know, learning takes place everywhere, all the time.*

Did you know research shows that all children lose approximately two months of math and reading skills during the summer?

*Summer is a time when you can maintain the academic gains your child has made.*

Keeping children engaged in learning throughout the summer means they can start the school year learning new material right away.

D.C. has many free, fun and easy activities you can do with your children to keep them engaged, curious and using their academic skills.

This guide provides some suggestions, but we encourage you to explore on your own as well. Check the DCPS website ([dcps.dc.gov](http://dcps.dc.gov)) weekly for new suggestions. You can also submit ideas to share with other parents.

The key to helping your child learn throughout the summer is to tailor the activities to fit your schedule and your child's interest. Like physical exercise, you need to exercise your child's brain as well. Do something with an educational focus every day. You'll see the rewards in September.

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Students at Oyster-Adams ES  
Photo by Bel Perez Gabilondo

*Use this guide to find a wealth of fun, free activities this summer in the Washington, DC area.*

## Make It Fun For Your Children – And Easy on You

The purpose of summer learning is to provide your children with different ways of using what they've learned, explore what they like, and nurture the sense of wonder and curiosity that fuels a lifelong love of learning.

As you review this guide, you will find a variety of simple things you can do to create a fun, meaningful set of activities for you and your children to do together. Consider the following:

**Talk to your children** about what they enjoyed most and least about the school year. Ask “why?” You may discover a hidden passion or an academic interest that needs more support.

**Ask and identify** what your children would like to know more about.

### Set some learning goals

- How many books will your children read this month? This summer?
- How many minutes of exercise will they do per week?
- How often will they do math skill-builders?
- How many creative things will they do?

**Create a simple chart** so that you and your children can track their learning goals and measure their progress.

**Complete the DCPS Summer Learning Packets**, which contain academic work to help your children remember key skills/concepts they learned during the past academic year.

**Plan an outing** in the neighborhood, in the city, out of town, or even a “virtual trip” via the Internet. The goal is provide your children with an experience connected to what they are learning.

**“Link It”** You can use a single point of interest to generate multiple learning opportunities for your children. Here's how:

- Identify your children's interests;
- Help select books in that interest subject;
- Find an activity related to the topic.

For example, if your children are interested in baseball, find them a book to read about Babe Ruth or Jackie Robinson and visit the Anacostia



Students at Tubman ES  
Photo by Bel Perez Gabilondo

*Talk to your children about their interests to identify what types of summer learning opportunities will be the most meaningful to them.*



Student at Browne EC  
Photo by Meghan Gay

Museum exhibit on the Negro Baseball League in D.C., or attend a minor or major baseball league game.

**“Page to Screen It”** Create a multimedia experience by viewing the same material in multiple ways. Here’s how:

- Select a book that has been made into a movie or TV;
- Have your children read the book then watch it on screen;
- Talk about what was similar and what was different.

For example, your child may read “Little House on the Prairie” and then watch a few episodes; read “Eragon” and watch the movie; or read “The Secret of NIMH” and watch the cartoon.

## INCLUDE READING EVERY DAY

Reading every day helps your child become a better reader. The more you encourage your child to read and emphasize the importance of reading, the more you help to maintain and boost your child’s literacy skills.

### Find ways to include reading in everyday activities.

- In the morning: Have your child read whatever is on hand – cereal box, recipe book, magazine, a book.
- In the afternoon: Set aside at least 20–30 minutes to have your child read a book.
- In the evening: Ask your children to tell you what they read. This is a great time to use “constructed response.”

### Practice constructed responses with your child

After your child reads a book or article, watches a TV show or movie, start a conversation about it. Try the following:

- Ask your child a question about the book, movie, etc.
- Ask your children to answer the questions and give three details/facts to support/defend their answer (by asking why they gave that answer).
- If you don’t get three details/facts, ask: “What else about the book or movie made you think that?”
- The more you do this the more the child gets in the habit of thinking and responding this way.



Students at Brent ES  
Photo by Bel Perez Gabilondo

*Reading 20-30 minutes  
per day will help  
maintain your child’s  
literacy skills.*



Student at Cleveland ES  
Photo by Bel Perez Gabilondo

## Not sure what your child should read?

### Go to a D.C. Public Library

- Libraries have reading lists for all grades. Visit [www.dclibrary.org/kids/booklists](http://www.dclibrary.org/kids/booklists). They also have books and activities arranged around the theme of “making waves.” Look at the themed book list at [www.dclibrary.org/summerreading](http://www.dclibrary.org/summerreading). Librarians can help you and your child select books to read.
- To maximize your visit to the library, check out a few books at a time.
- Libraries also provide programs for children, teens and families. Pick up a copy of the library calendar of events from a library branch, or look at the online calendar at [www.dclibrary.org](http://www.dclibrary.org). If you have young children, check out “Storytimes” that help teach the building blocks of literacy. To locate times and more information, visit [www.dclibrary.org/kids/storytime](http://www.dclibrary.org/kids/storytime).

### Pick up and read a newspaper or magazine

- Newspapers are available throughout the city. Have your child read the headlines, stories of interest, the sports section or the comics.

### Complete the DCPS Summer Learning Packet

- The packet was designed to help reinforce key concepts your child learned this past school year.

### Suggestions

- **Talk to your children** about what they are interested in and help them select related books. Having your child participate in the book selection gives them a role in their learning and makes it easier to engage them in the process.
- **Check the level of difficulty of the book.** You can use what teachers call the “five finger rule”:
  1. Have your children choose a book and begin reading a page in the book;
  2. Ask them to raise a finger each time they read a word they do not know; and
  3. If there are five or more words on a page with which your children are not familiar, have them pick an easier book. Don’t put this book away! Read it again in a few weeks to determine how your children are progressing.



Student at Ludlow Taylor ES  
Photo by Michael DeAngelis

*So many books...so little time. If you don't know where to start, ask a librarian for assistance.*



Student at Woodson HS  
Photo by Michael DeAngelis



- **Consider getting a print copy of a book and the audio version (audio book) for struggling readers.** Your child can read along while listening to the story.
- **Ask a librarian** for books that would be appropriate for your struggling reader.
- **Read with your children or have them read to you.** You are the best role model. Take some time to read or be read to as a way of showing that you value reading and your child's pursuit of it.



Students at H.D. Cooke  
Photo by Bel Perez Gabilondo

## INCORPORATE MATH EVERY DAY

We all use math every day. There are some easy and fun ways of helping children increase the amount of “math work” they do daily.

- Practice math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division). Have them design their own flash cards on index cards or paper cut into rectangles.
- Have your children track daily temperatures. Ask them to determine how much the temperature varies each day and what the average temperature was for the week.
- Have your children help prepare a snack or meal. Have them measure out ingredients, count items, read directions or food packages.
- When in a store, ask your children to record and add the cost of each item.
- Play “restaurant” at home. Tell your children what you will be serving for a meal. Have them determine how much each food item should cost, design a menu then have them take orders from those who will be eating. Your child will then track the orders and tally the bill.
- Younger children can be the timekeepers for an activity. Practice different ways of asking them the time and having them tell you the time (for example, it's 6:30 or half past 6; dinner will be ready at 7 or in 30 minutes).
- Ask your children to track sports stats.
- Do laundry together. It will help your children with shapes, sorting and measuring.
- Encourage your children to play with their food! Help your children count items on their plate, look at the food in terms of fractions, addition, or subtraction.

*Not sure how to “teach” your child math? Focus on ways to get your children to use their basic math skills – addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, geometry, distance, logic, strategic thinking. All of these skills can be used in basic card or board games, in the grocery store, reading the newspaper, etc.*



Students at Cleveland ES  
Photo by Bel Perez Gabilondo

- Play games. Card games and board games encourage children to use math, strategy and logic.

## HAVE FUN WITH FITNESS AND NUTRITION

While some children do a lot of running around during summer, others are less physically active. And children's diets can lack healthy, regular meals. The result is that some children gain weight over the summer. The following are simple ways to keep your children - and you - fit and healthy:

- **Encourage or take** your children on a walk, jog, or ride;
- **Have a dance break!** Any type of music anywhere, anytime;
- **Visit a recreation center;**
- **Play** kickball, kick the can, jump rope, hopscotch, tag;
- **Cook healthy and nutritious snacks and meals.** Visit the DCPS website for some simple recipes;
- **Visit a farmers market.** D.C. now has 18 farmers markets in all areas of the city. Exploring the market allows your children to make a connection between the food they eat and the people who grow it; experience fresh fruit and vegetables; and raise awareness about what they eat; and
- **Work on a community garden.** The Department of Parks and Recreation has gardens throughout the city that you and your child can visit and work on. It's a great way to get your child involved in reading, math, science, fitness and community service.



Student at Malcolm X  
Photo by Bel Perez Gabilondo



Students at Noyes ES  
Photo by Bel Perez Gabilondo

## PARTICIPATE IN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

### Music

Did you know some of the top musicians in the world are here in our city?

The premier military bands, orchestras and choirs are filled with phenomenal musicians who perform throughout the summer. You can find their schedules here:



Students at H.D. Cooke  
Photo by Simona Monnatti

Air Force: [www.usafband.af.mil/events/index.asp](http://www.usafband.af.mil/events/index.asp) .  
Army: [www.usarmyband.com/event-calendar.html](http://www.usarmyband.com/event-calendar.html) .  
Marines: [www.marineband.usmc.mil/](http://www.marineband.usmc.mil/) .  
Navy: [www.navyband.navy.mil/](http://www.navyband.navy.mil/) .

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts gives free performances every day starting at 6 p.m. on its Millennium Stage: [www.kennedy-center.org/programs/millennium/](http://www.kennedy-center.org/programs/millennium/) .

The National Parks Service has a listing of summer concerts in the National Capital Region, including Wolf Trap Farm Park, Carter Barron Amphitheatre, Fort Hunt and Fort DuPont (most concerts are free). Visit [www.nps.gov/ncro/publicaffairs/summerinthecity.htm](http://www.nps.gov/ncro/publicaffairs/summerinthecity.htm) .

### **What to do with your child at a performance**

When you attend a concert, take a journal so that your children (or you) can take notes about what they hear. Ask them what they notice about the music. Include the elements of music (rhythm, harmony, melody, form, texture, timbre, and expression). Listen for and comment on specific technical aspects - phrasing, articulation, tone, dynamics and intonation. Ask them if the performance expressed what the composer intended.

If you or your children need or want to learn more about music, visit [www.sfskids.org/templates/home.asp?pageid=1](http://www.sfskids.org/templates/home.asp?pageid=1).

After you have attended a concert, have your children write a reflection or critique – something they might see in a newspaper or a blog. Use the journal notes to remind them of what happened during the concert. You also can use some of the following questions as a starting point. Encourage your children to write neatly and use their best writing skills (as they would with any writing assignment). They should include an introduction and a conclusion.

- How did you feel before the concert?
- Which compositions do you think the ensemble performed best and why?
- Which pieces performed by other ensembles did you especially enjoy or which ones were performed well? Why?
- How did you feel during the performance/rehearsal?
- Do you think the ensemble was prepared for the performance? Is there anything you would do differently?
- Did you notice any comments from family members or other audience members?
- From what piece did you learn the most? Why and how?



Students at Brent ES  
Photo by Bel Perez Gabilondo



Students at Brent ES  
Photo by Bel Perez Gabilondo



- What pieces demanded the most from you as a listener? Were the songs difficult to listen to? Why?

For elementary students, being exposed to a variety of music will help them develop a “listening vocabulary.” As a follow-up, ask them to sing any of the melodies they heard at the concert.

## Museums

The Smithsonian museums provide a variety of free exhibits that appeal to almost any interest. And the size and variety of the museums allows you to expose your child to many wonders of the world without leaving D.C.

- Turn a visit to a museum into an adventure. Let your children pick a museum, then look at what exhibits they can visit.
- Identify topics your child is interested in and look for an exhibit or museum program that matches the interest. If your children are interested in jewelry take them to see precious jewels in the collection Janet Annenberg Hooker Hall of Geology, Gems, and Minerals in the Natural History Museum.

Do your children like flowers? Visit one of the Smithsonian gardens, then visit go to “ImaginAsia: Cornucopia of Flowers” in the Sackler Gallery to learn about ceramic flowers, learn to make origami flowers, and create your own display at home.

Want your children to learn more American history? Take them to see portraits of American presidents, civil rights pioneers, or the Elvis exhibit in the National Portrait Gallery; visit the American History Museum to see a 200-year-old American flag, learn about the “Star Spangled Banner” and how transportation evolved in the United States; or tour the American Indian Museum to learn more about Native Americans.

Have your children talked about “reaching for the stars?” Take them to see the “Stars Tonight” or an exhibit in the Air and Space Museum.

- For tips on how to plan for a trip to the museums, visit [www.smithsonianeducation.org/families//at the smithsonian/at the smithsonian.html](http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/families//at_the_smithsonian/at_the_smithsonian.html) .



Students at H.D. Cooke  
Photo by Simona Monnatti



Students at Emery EC  
Photo by Simona Monnatti

## Links to Local Museums

<p>Anacostia Museum  <a href="http://www.anacostia.si.edu">www.anacostia.si.edu</a>  1901 Fort Place SE  202.287.3306</p>	<p>Arthur M. Sackler Gallery  <a href="http://www.asia.si.edu">www.asia.si.edu</a>  1050 Independence Ave. SW  202.633.4880</p>	<p>National Building Museum  <a href="http://www.nbm.org">www.nbm.org</a>  F St. between 4th &amp; 5th streets NW  202.272.2448</p>
<p>Freer Gallery of Art  <a href="http://www.asia.si.edu">www.asia.si.edu</a>  Jefferson Drive SW at 12th St. SW  202.633.4880</p>	<p>Art Museum of the Americas  <a href="http://www.museum.oas.org">www.museum.oas.org</a>  201 18th St. NW  202.458.6016</p>	<p>National Gallery of Art  East Building  <a href="http://www.nga.gov/exhibitions">www.nga.gov/exhibitions</a>  Madison Drive &amp; 4th Street NW  202.737.4215</p>
<p>Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden  <a href="http://www.hirshhorn.si.edu">www.hirshhorn.si.edu</a>  Independence Avenue SW at 7th Street SW  202.633.4674</p>	<p>Corcoran Gallery  <a href="http://www.corcoran.org">www.corcoran.org</a>  17th Street &amp; New York Avenue NW  202.638.1439</p>	<p>West Building  <a href="http://www.nga.gov/exhibitions">www.nga.gov/exhibitions</a>  Madison Drive &amp; 4th Street NW  202.737.4215</p>
<p>National Museum of African Art  <a href="http://www.si.edu/nmafa/africart">www.si.edu/nmafa/africart</a>  950 Independence Ave. SW  202.633.4600</p>	<p>Del Sol Visual Art and Media Center  <a href="http://www.fondodelsol.org">www.fondodelsol.org</a>  2112 R St. NW  202.483.2777</p>	<p>Renwick Gallery  <a href="http://www.americanart.si.edu/renwick">www.americanart.si.edu/renwick</a>  17th Street &amp; Pennsylvania Avenue NW  202.633.2850</p>
<p>Smithsonian American Art Museum  <a href="http://www.americanart.si.edu">www.americanart.si.edu</a>  8th &amp; F streets NW  202.633.1000</p>	<p>Dumbarton Oaks Museum  <a href="http://www.doaks.org/museum">www.doaks.org/museum</a>  1703 32nd St. NW  202.338.8278</p>	<p>National Museum of Women in the Arts  <a href="http://www.nmwa.org">www.nmwa.org</a>  1250 New York Ave. NW  202.783.5000</p>
<p>National Museum of the American Indian  <a href="http://www.si.edu/nmai">www.si.edu/nmai</a>  4th Street and Independence Avenue SW  202.633.1000</p>	<p>Hillwood Museum  <a href="http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org">www.hillwoodmuseum.org</a>  4155 Linnean Ave. NW  202.686.5807</p>	<p>The Phillips Collection  <a href="http://www.phillipscollection.org">www.phillipscollection.org</a>  1600-1612 21st St. NW  202.387.2151</p>
<p>National Portrait Gallery  <a href="http://www.npg.si.edu">www.npg.si.edu</a>  8th &amp; F streets NW  202.633.8300</p>	<p>Kreeger Museum  <a href="http://www.kreegermuseum.org">www.kreegermuseum.org</a>  2401 Foxhall Road NW  202.337.3050  <i>(Business Office);</i>  202.338.3552 <i>(Reservations)</i></p>	<p>Textile Museum  <a href="http://www.textilemuseum.org">www.textilemuseum.org</a>  2320 S St. NW  202.667.0441</p>

## Sample of Summer Activities at the Smithsonian Museums

Date and Time	Activity	Location
June 25-28 and July 1-5, 11a-5:30p	Folklife Festival	On the Mall
July 6-7, 10:15-11:30a	Tappers with Attitude	Ripley Center
July 7, 1-3p	Come Draw with Us	African Art Museum
July 23, 11a-7p	Scavenger Hunt	American Art Museum
July 27, 11a	Goombay: The Caribbean Experience	African Art Museum
August 6, 10-11a	Lady Bug Release	American Indian Museum
August 6-8	Living Earth Festival	American Indian Museum
Daily, 10a-5:30p	Separate and Unequaled: Black Baseball in the District of Columbia	Anacostia Museum
Daily, 10a-5:30p	America's Presidents One Life: Echoes of Elvis	National Portrait Gallery
Daily, 10a-5:30p	Butterflies + Plants: Partners in Evolution Discovering Rastafari! Insect Zoo Dinosaurs: Reptiles: Masters of Land	Natural History Museum
Daily, 10a-5:30p	Lighting a Revolution—Electricity Hall Musical Instruments America on the Move	American History Museum
Daily, 6p	Millennium Stage	Kennedy Center
Daily, 10a-4p, Monday-Saturday; 11a-4p Sunday	The Building Zone Family Tool Kits: Patterns, Eye Soy, and Constructor Detector (kits have a \$5.00 fee)	National Building Museum
Daily, 11:30a	Hok-noth-da? (Did you Hear?) – Native American Storytelling	American Indian Museum
Daily, 10a-5:30p	Telling Stories: Norman Rockwell from the Collections of George Lucas and Steven Spielberg	American Art Museum, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor West
Daily, 10a-5:30p	The Art of Gaman: Arts and Crafts from the Japanese American Internment Camps, 1942-1946	Renwick Gallery, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor

## ENCOURAGE SELF-PACED LEARNING

Some children, especially those who are older, may enjoy learning on their own. Here are some resources to help guide their learning.

### Individual Graduation Portfolio (IGP)

This is a great online academic and career-planning resource available to all DCPS students in grades 6-12. The IGP provides students with information about their academic records and courses, and provides online tools to help students build skills and begin long-range planning for college or careers.

Please note that rising sixth graders can access the IGP in July and rising ninth graders can access the high school features of the IGP in July. Parents do not have their own logins; your child must provide you with a password.

- Go to [www.dcps.bridges.com](http://www.dcps.bridges.com);
- Your child enters their portfolio name and password  
Their portfolio name is DCPS followed by their student ID number. For example:  
*Portfolio Name: DCPS12345678*  
*Initial Password: DCPS* \*Remind your child to change their password after the initial login! \*

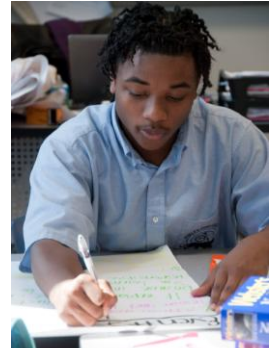
All students can access their grades and a Learning Styles Inventory. High school students can access a course plan builder, college or career planners, aptitude tests, college finders, free PSAT and SAT test materials, and more.

### Learning Express Library (LEL)

Available through the D.C. Public Library website, the LEL helps your child learn about a variety of topics online through interactive tutorials. Content areas cover all levels of education (elementary through college and career prep), Advance Placement practice exams and computer skills. Visit

[www.learnatest.com/LEL/index.cfm?HR=http://www.dclibrary.org](http://www.learnatest.com/LEL/index.cfm?HR=http://www.dclibrary.org) .

You will need a library card to access this site. To get a library card, visit a local branch or go to [www.dclibrary.org/services/getacard](http://www.dclibrary.org/services/getacard) .



Student at Phelps HS  
Photo by Meaghan Gray



Student at Deal MS  
Photo by Bel Perez Gabilondo



Student at Browne EC  
Photo by Bel Perez Gabilondo

### Online Tutoring

Through the D.C. Public Library website, students in elementary through high school can access free online tutoring in math, science, English, social studies and AP materials. This is a great resource to use if your child struggles to get the answers for any of the work provided in their DCPS Summer Learning Packet.

To access the service, go to [www.dclibrary.org/teens/homework](http://www.dclibrary.org/teens/homework). Under “homework help” you will see a button that says “Get help!” Just click the button to get started. You will need to enter your D.C. library card number to access the site.

### EXPLORE ONLINE RESOURCES

There are many great things to do online, but parents need to be prudent and children need to be wise. Kids interface with technology every day through cell phones and the Internet. Take the time to talk to your children about what content is appropriate for them to access and view, and what to do if they are approached, harassed, or exposed to inappropriate materials online.

For tips on how to keep your child safe online, visit these sites:

- [www.common sense media.org](http://www.common sense media.org)
- [www.OnGuardOnline.gov](http://www.OnGuardOnline.gov)
- [www.NetSmartz.org](http://www.NetSmartz.org)

### D.C. Public Library [www.dclibrary.org](http://www.dclibrary.org)

The site has many online resources including e-books, audio books, movies, and music that can be downloaded to your computer, MP3 player or mobile phone. Go to [www.dclibrary.org/books-movies-music/downloads](http://www.dclibrary.org/books-movies-music/downloads) to get started. For children ranging in age from newborns to 10, the library provides two Video Story Book sites: Bookflix and Tumblebooks. Visit [www.dclibrary.org/kids/videobooks](http://www.dclibrary.org/kids/videobooks) to access animated fiction and non-fiction books for your child.



Student at Francis-Stevens EC  
Photo by Bel Perez Gabilondo



Students at Cleveland ES  
Photo by Bel Perez Gabilondo



DCPL provides lists of books, movies and websites for children and teenagers, ranging from the academic, to activism, to great things to watch. Go to [www.dclibrary.org/summerreading](http://www.dclibrary.org/summerreading).

**CoolMath.com** [www.coolmath.com](http://www.coolmath.com)

You and your children will have fun on this math-inspired website with resources and games that focus on basic math, logic and strategic thinking. Site favorites include the “Lemonade stand” and “Coffee stand,” games that allow your children to run a business and learn budgeting, ordering, forecasting and customer service. It’s not as easy as it sounds. The site also has online versions of board games such as Chinese Checkers, Connect Four, Mahjong. This feature is especially great because you could buy the actual board games and use them for a family game night!

**CentCity** [www.Centcity.com](http://www.Centcity.com)

This site has a fee of \$4.95, but it’s worth it! The game teaches your children basics of financial literacy by allowing them to spend, save and invest in an online community. The game has a feature that allows parents/caregivers to monitor children’s progress and even offer “real world” rewards.

**Finance Freak** [www.financefreak.com](http://www.financefreak.com)

This site for older children focuses on personal financial topics such as loans, credit card debt and cost of living.

#### For younger children

- **Reading Rockets:** provides parents with great tips on how to improve children’s literacy:  
[www.readingrockets.org/audience/parents](http://www.readingrockets.org/audience/parents);
- **Colorin Colorado:** Spanish version of the Reading Rockets site that also focuses on issues impacting English language learners:  
[www.readingrockets.org/spanish](http://www.readingrockets.org/spanish);
- **Sesame Street:** The classic children’s education television program has a great website full of resources and activities:  
[www.sesamestreet.org](http://www.sesamestreet.org);
- **The Electric Company:** [www.pbskids.org/electriccompany](http://www.pbskids.org/electriccompany);
- **PBS’ Cyberchase:** [www.pbskids.org/cyberchase](http://www.pbskids.org/cyberchase) .



Student at Drew MS  
Photo by Michael DeAngelis



Student at Seaton ES  
Photo by Simona Monnatti

### For all children

- **San Francisco Symphony Kids' Site:** a fun way to introduce your children to music basics such as tempo, rhythm, pitch, harmony, instrumentation. The "radio" feature is a great way to introduce your child to "classic" classical pieces. Visit [www.sfskids.org/templates/home.asp?pageid=1](http://www.sfskids.org/templates/home.asp?pageid=1);
- **Figure This:** math and logic challenges for the entire family, visit [www.figurethis.org/challenges/challenge\\_index.htm](http://www.figurethis.org/challenges/challenge_index.htm);
- **Braincake:** a website that focuses on promoting girls' interest in math and science with great links and resources for all children: [www.braincake.org](http://www.braincake.org);
- **100 Tools to Make Your Kids Math and Science Stars:** The title says it all <http://forensicscienceschools.org/100-tools-to-make-your-kids-math-and-science-stars/>;
- **Food and Drug Administration (FDA):** This site has everything from information about the food pyramid, to menu planning, to tips on healthy eating. Visit [www.mypyramid.gov](http://www.mypyramid.gov);
- **The National Zoo:** If you can't get to the zoo in person, check out what the animals are doing via webcam! <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/webcams>;
- **Amazing Space: Hubble's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** [http://amazing-space.stsci.edu/hubble\\_20/](http://amazing-space.stsci.edu/hubble_20/). Fun site for budding (and advanced) space enthusiasts. Click through the site to learn about constellations ("Tonight's Sky"), learn about basic bodies and concepts ("Capture the Cosmos"), to games and tutorials under "On-line Explorations." In this section, have your child sign up for the Hubble Deep Field Academy (<http://amazing-space.stsci.edu/resources/explorations/hdf/>);
- **Thinkport:** [www.thinkport.org/Classroom/trips.tp](http://www.thinkport.org/Classroom/trips.tp) . Many interesting virtual activities for your child. Below are a few highlights:

### Pathways to Freedom: Maryland and the Underground Railroad

([http://pathways.thinkport.org/flash\\_home.cfm](http://pathways.thinkport.org/flash_home.cfm)) provides information about the history of the Underground Railroad, how quilts and railroads were used to give directions to escaped slaves, and an interactive game that allows your child to assume the role of a 12 year old escaped slave and make decisions about their escape, or learn how to create secret messages in quilts.

### Plastic Fork Diaries: [www.plasticforkdiaries.org/index\\_flash.cfm](http://www.plasticforkdiaries.org/index_flash.cfm)

This interactive site follows six middle school students and their relationships with food, health, family and each other.



Students at Browne EC  
Photo by Bel Perez Gabilondo



Student at Powell  
Photo by Bel Perez Gabilondo



Students at H.D. Cooke ES  
Photo by Bel Perez Gabilondo

## What Can Parents/Caregivers/Community Members Do to Maintain Student Achievement throughout the Summer

- ☐ Check DCPS website and summer school sites for information and suggestions about boosting summer learning.
- ☐ Have children (ages 0 to 20) do at least one educational activity per day.
- ☐ Encourage reading by having books, magazines, newspapers available for children to read.
- ☐ Include math in everyday activities such as cooking, walking, telling time, calculating expenses.
- ☐ Incorporate exercising and healthy eating habits into your regular routines.
- ☐ Visit the library.
- ☐ Talk to children about what they did.
- ☐ Visit a museum – in person or online.
- ☐ Keep a summer journal with your child to record what they learned, thought about, talked about doing in the future.
- ☐ Encourage a hobby.
- ☐ Set a goal to read a certain number of books by the start of school (Aug. 23).
- ☐ Complete DCPS Summer Learning Packets.
- ☐ Engage in Community Service.



Students at Tubman  
Photo by Bel Perez Gabilondo



Students at Phelps HS  
Photo by Meaghan Gray



Students at Ludlow Taylor ES  
Photo by Michael DeAngelis

## What DCPS Will Do to Maintain Student Achievement throughout the Summer

- ☐ Provide Summer Learning Packets to students.
- ☐ Provide some experiential learning opportunities for families (check [www.dcps.dc.gov](http://www.dcps.dc.gov) for activities).
- ☐ Update information on the website and at summer school sites.
- ☐ Participate in the city-wide summer lunch program.



Student at Seaton  
Photo by Simona Monnatti